

For over twenty-five years, Brian Counihan has been friend, advisor, mentor, teacher -- and even surrogate parent -- to countless Loyola College and Concordia University students, this former one included. Beginning at Loyola in 1970 as Assistant Dean of Students and International Student Advisor -- and now as Concordia's Dean of Students, our first and our only -- Dean Counihan has long been respected and admired for his sensitivity to students and his care for their needs. He has had a distinguished career in student affairs, and this institution and all of us who have been fortunate to work with him have benefitted greatly from his wisdom, his humour and his unwavering support.

Dean Counihan has always been a strong advocate for students. He has consistently demonstrated vigorous support for their role as fully participating members of the University community. He is an educator -- in every sense of word. And if part of learning may have involved making mistakes, then he was supportive of that too. He spoke to us of respect for students, of where they were coming from and of where they were at -- to borrow a phrase from my generation. In some cases, he was even our conscience -- and at times, we needed it.

If there is one word which best describes his contribution to Concordia, I think it would be "presence." Dean Counihan was simply there -- at times, the lone voice speaking for students. He was also the face of the University at countless student events -- evenings and weekends. Whether it was a student government beer-bash, a fraternity fundraiser, a residence banquet or an international student wine-and-cheese, the Dean was there speaking with everyone and showing how important Concordia students really are.

And now he will be leaving us at the end of December -- doubtless full of plans and

exciting things to do. We hope that he will miss us as much as we will miss him.

I am therefore honoured and proud to announce this evening, through the generous financial support, and on behalf of, Concordia Student Services, the Concordia Student Union, the Commerce and Administration Students' Association and the Engineering and Computer Science Students' Association, the creation of the Dean Brian T. Counihan Scholarship for Outstanding Contribution to Student Life. It will be awarded, when merited, to a Concordia student who has demonstrated a serious commitment to improving the quality of life at the University for her or his fellow students. We believe this is a fitting testimonial and legacy for a man who has always put students first.

A job well done, Dean Counihan. And on behalf of those countless students over the years, thank you, Brian.